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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 98 (*d*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/629/Add.4)*]

### 52/200. International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 50/117 A and B of 20 December 1995 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

*Taking into account* that the El Niño Southern Oscillation Phenomenon, commonly known as "El Niño", has had an acute impact in several regions of the world, with particular severity and frequency in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean,

*Noting* that El Niño has a recurring character and has produced disastrous effects, resulting in large material, economic, human and environmental losses, with particular impact in the coastal countries of the Pacific Ocean, especially in developing countries,

*Acknowledging with concern* the possible effects that El Niño may have on global weather patterns, such as abnormal droughts and precipitation around the world, leading to food shortages and famine in several regions which could extend over a number of years and which may have potential impacts on world food supplies,

*Taking into account* that the major El Niño events of this century have occurred fairly regularly and are often preceded by a number of distinct warning signs, which, with an appropriate increase in and exchange of data and information, could assist in the modelling and prediction of its recurrence and enhance the capabilities of affected countries to mitigate the negative social, economic and environmental impacts that the phenomenon causes,

*Acknowledging* the need to enhance international and national efforts for a better scientific understanding of the origins of the El Niño phenomenon,

*Considering* that the national efforts of the countries affected have been insufficient owing to the magnitude of the natural disaster and that international cooperation and solidarity therefore become indispensable, in particular in the area of capacity-building,

*Reaffirming* that disaster reduction forms an integral part of the sustainable development strategies and national development plans of vulnerable countries and communities,

1. *Invites* States to incorporate in sustainable development programmes, at the national, regional and international levels, strategies to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters;

2. *Calls upon* States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to participate actively in the financial and technical support for Decade activities, including those related to international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade,[1] in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action[2] into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

3. *Commends* the national, regional and subregional efforts of affected countries, particularly those of developing countries, to reduce the impact of El Niño;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate, within the framework of the Decade, an internationally concerted and comprehensive strategy towards the integration of the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of the damage caused by the El Niño phenomenon, including the development of long-term strategies which take into due consideration the need for technical cooperation, financial assistance, the transfer of appropriate technology and the dissemination of existing scientific knowledge, as part of the Decade's activities, the International Framework of Action for the Decade and the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, and taking into account the relevant parts of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[3]

5. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with adverse impact on the environment, with particular reference to El Niño;[4]

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Inter-agency Task Force on El Niño for cooperative work on the prevention and mitigation of and preparedness for natural disasters related to the El Niño phenomenon;

7. *Calls upon* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, especially the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the International Council of Scientific Unions and the World

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[1] See resolution 44/236, annex.

[2] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] See resolutions 51/185, 49/22 B and 50/117 B.

Climate Research Programme, within the framework of the Decade, to contribute further to a comprehensive approach and study of El Niño and to intensify their cooperation with the regions affected by the phenomenon, especially developing countries, small island developing States and landlocked countries;

8. *Invites* States to support the oceanographic and terrestrial observation networks to observe, describe and predict climate anomalies related to El Niño;

9. *Invites* States, intergovernmental organizations and all those participating in the Decade to provide technical and financial assistance, including national capacity-building, to developing countries to support global and regional observation systems and research, including the dissemination of data on El Niño, to prevent, mitigate and redress the negative effects of the phenomenon;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within the context of paragraph 4 of the present resolution and within available resources of the secretariat of the Decade, to promote an intergovernmental meeting of experts, including representatives of academic and scientific institutions devoted to the study and analysis of El Niño, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and national experiences related to the monitoring of the phenomenon as well as of strategies for the reduction of its impact and to provide to the meeting the reports of regional meetings and symposia specializing in the phenomenon;

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General to include the El Niño phenomenon and its consequences in the ongoing activities of the Decade to improve the effectiveness and increase international coordination of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment;

12. *Recommends* that long-term public awareness and information programmes related to natural disasters, including those induced by El Niño and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, be integrated into comprehensive national disaster management programmes that focus on preventive strategies for risk reduction and that those programmes be included as integral elements of United Nations support for social and economic development programmes;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, within the discussion on the implementation of the Decade, under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", including proposals on how to integrate the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon into the development of the disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

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## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/629/Add.5)*]

### 52/201. Convention on Biological Diversity

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 51/182 of 16 December 1996 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions relating to the Convention,

*Recalling also* the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

*Recalling further* Agenda 21,[2] particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

*Recalling* the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity,[3]

*Deeply concerned* by the continued loss of the world's biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12* (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (*i*).

*Emphasizing* that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

*Encouraged* by the work carried out to date under the Convention,

*Noting with satisfaction* that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the generous offer of the Government of Slovakia to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Bratislava from 4 to 15 May 1998,

*Recalling* its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Buenos Aires from 4 to 15 November 1996, as reflected in the report of the meeting,[4] submitted in accordance with resolution 51/182, and in that context reaffirms the need to take concrete action to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and the programme of work contained therein,[5] and the development of a focused work programme for forest biological diversity;[6]

3. *Also takes note* of the ongoing work and the international cooperation to date towards fulfilling the objectives of the Convention, the decision of the Conference of the Parties and, *inter alia*, the initiative taken on holding workshops, including the workshop on traditional knowledge and biological diversity,[7] and the important work being carried out by the subsidiary bodies of the Convention;

4. *Further takes note* of the work carried out at the third meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held at the seat of the secretariat of the Convention at Montreal, Canada, from 13 to 17 October 1997, and reaffirms the importance of those negotiations for the development of a protocol on biosafety;

5. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

6. *Recognizes* that States parties to the Convention have agreed to provide additional financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 20 of the Convention, and urges all funding institutions, including bilateral and multilateral donors as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in implementing the decision of the Conference of the Parties;[8]

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[4] See A/52/441.

[5] Ibid., annex II, decision III/11.

[6] Ibid., decision III/12.

[7] Ibid., decision III/14.

[8] Ibid., decision III/6.

7. *Renews its appreciation* for the important work being carried out under the Convention towards enhancing cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and the implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes;

9. *Notes* that the first national reports by States parties to the Convention, as required under article 26 of the Convention, are due to be submitted to the secretariat of the Convention no later than 1 January 1998[9] in accordance with the decision taken at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties,[10] calls upon Member States that are parties to the Convention to meet that requirement as soon as possible, and in that context invites the international community to assist developing countries in fulfilling that commitment;

10. *Also notes* the clarification of the administrative arrangements regarding the respective roles of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Convention in respect of personnel and financial matters, as detailed in the Administrative Arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed on 30 June 1997;

11. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner, in accordance with the decision of the Conference of the Parties regarding the contributions required for the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity,[11] so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

12. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

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[9] Ibid., decision III/9.

[10] See A/51/312, annex II, decision II/17.

[11] See A/52/441, annex II, decision III/24.